

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6-11 and 14-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4 and 5 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and claims 14-19 are added. Claims 1, 3, 8 and 11 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Restriction Requirement

The withdrawal of the November 17, 2004, Restriction Requirement is appreciated. Applicants submit that as all pending claims have been examined, the application is in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

II. Specification

The specification is amended to include the current status of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/394,526, which is the parent to this application.

III. Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 8-10, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5 is appreciated, the subject matter of claim 5 being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. As the subject matter of allowable claim 5, and the intervening claims are incorporated into amended claim 1, claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 are in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

IV. Claim Objections

Claims 4, 5 and 8 are objected to due to informalities. As the claim language is amended in response to the objection, withdrawal of the objection to claims 4, 5 and 8 is respectfully requested.

V. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,266,858 to Ohmi et al. (Ohmi). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As claims 2 and 4 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. Moreover, as the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and its intervening claims is incorporated into independent claim 1, Ohmi fails to anticipate the subject matter of the rejected claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

VI. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ohmi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,041,294 to Inoyama et al. (Inoyama). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7 are allowable for their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Regarding the rejection of claim 11, neither Ohmi nor Inoyama, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest every feature recited in the rejected claim as amended. For example, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus for shaping coil ends composed of a plurality of conductor segments disposed in a plurality of radial-layers of slots of a rotary-machine-stator, said apparatus comprising a plurality of pairs of twister cylinders respectively corresponding to said radial-layers of slots and rotatable about an axis, said twister cylinders respectively holding connection ends of said conductor segments in separate circumferential layers at an axial end of said stator; a rotating mechanism for rotating said twister cylinders alternately in opposite directions to bend connection ends of said conductor segments in one of said circumferential layers in one direction and connection ends of said conductor segments in adjacent circumferential layer in

the opposite direction; an elevating mechanism for moving said twister cylinders in the axial direction of said stator; and a controller for controlling said rotating mechanism and elevating mechanism to move said twister cylinders so that the length of said conductor members extending from said stator can be maintained constant.

It is stated in the Office Action that Ohmi discloses two twister cylinders 4 [5]. As shown in Fig. 4a of Ohmi, the outer cylindrical jig 4 has a plurality of slots for receiving the straight portion of a bent wire 1 and a fixed cylindrical inner jig 5 has a corresponding number of slots to receive a bent wire (col. 4, lines 12-24). Thus, Ohmi fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of pairs of twisting cylinders respectively corresponding to the radial layers of the slots and rotatable about an axis as recited in the rejected claims as amended.

The supplemental reference of Inoyama is admitted as being combined with Ohmi merely for the teaching of a controller. As Inoyama fails to disclose a plurality of pairs of twisted cylinders as recited in the rejected claims, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited therein and therefore fails to render obvious the subject matter of claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

VII. New Claims

None of the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 14-19. For example, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus for shaping a plurality of conductor members disposed circumferentially and extending axially from a rotary-electric machine stator so that connection ends of the conduct members are disposed at one end of the stator, said apparatus comprising first means for holding said conductor members the connection ends; second means for moving said first mean in the circumferential direction of said stator; and third means for moving said first means in the axial direction of said stator, wherein said

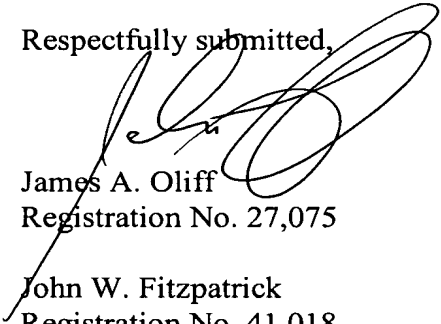
second means and said third means are arranged to move said first means in a controlled manner.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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